

SAN DIEGO COUNTY JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMISSION
JUVENILE RANCH FACILITY INSPECTION REPORT
2005

Facility Name: JUVENILE RANCH FACILITY
Superintendent: Margie Deleon

Inspection Date: 6/16/2005
Last Inspection Date: 3/4/2004

Address: 957 Forrest Gate Road
Campo, CA 91906

Telephone Number: (619) 401-3500
Fax: 401-3512

Type of Facility: Juvenile Camp

Presiding Juvenile Court Judge:
Honorable Susan Huguenor

Staff Interviewed:
Margie Deleon, Facility Director
Vincent Janette, Probation Supervisor
Nels Esquibel, Probation Supervisor
Leilah Armour-Townsend, School Principal

Facility Capacity:
Total Bed Capacity: 250
Currently 3 Dorm Capacity: 149
Population on inspection date: 119

Juvenile Justice Commission Chair: William Apan

Commission Inspection Team:
William Apan
Lakisha Sanders
Martin Hight

Comments and Recommendations:

The Juvenile Ranch Facility is a juvenile institution, which provides a dormitory style residential program for delinquent boys. The total capacity at the facility is 250 beds. The facility is divided with programming for two categories of offenders. There are two dormitories known as Rancho Del Rayo, housing boys aged 12-16½, with an 84-day program focusing on substance abuse and Breaking the Cycle of Addictive Thinking. A separate area, known as Rancho Del Campo, focuses on older (aged 12 to 18 years) boys addressing short-term commitments, and a Breaking Cycles and a STOP (Short Term Offender Program) redirecting delinquent behavior focus.

The Juvenile Ranch Facility is administered by Margie Deleon, Director. The San Diego County Office of Education administers the Rancho del Campo High School, certified Kindergarten through 12th Grade, and is attended by all wards at the Juvenile Ranch Facility. Medical and Mental Health services are provided by California Forensic Medical Group (CFMG).

The inspection team noted the general camp condition and operations were consistent with previous inspections. The inspection team noted the consistent theme amongst all staff members on site to provide a positive atmosphere and to encourage wards to participate in various programs and to take accountability for their actions.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. The Juvenile Ranch Facility is comprised of generally single-level structures and is located on a large parcel. There are some roads for vehicles between more remote areas, however, generally staff assigned to the facility have no motorized form of transportation and walk from point to point. It is recommended the facility consider some form of mobilized transportation for administrators and/or other staff responding to calls for assistance, etc. The road system appears adequate to accommodate fuel-efficient transportation such as battery-operated vehicles.
2. In view of the significant rain during the recent winter, the facility may benefit from some weed control/landscaping and restoration if appropriate for minor indication of erosion on asphalt roads.

SAN DIEGO COUNTY JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMISSION
JUVENILE RANCH FACILITY INSPECTION REPORT
2005

3. The "Supply & Intake Area," an office trailer, is equipped with a wood exterior, which was noted as particularly weathered, with chipped and peeling paint. It is recommended that continued use of this structure be evaluated, with consideration to either replace or renovate the structure.
4. Toilet fixtures in the Rancho del Campo area appeared to be in need of refurbishment or replacement.
5. Replace defaced windows in the Rancho del Rayo dormitories.

AREA REVIEWED:

R= Reviewed NR=Not Reviewed I= Interviewed NI – Not Interviewed

QUALITY OF LIFE

Physical Plant - R
 Meals/Nutrition - R
 Mental Health - R
 Physical/Dental Health - R
 Religious Services - R
 Volunteer Involvement - R
 Visiting - R
 Other - NR

PROGRAMS

Education - R
 Vocation/Employability - R
 Community Services - R
 Victim/Gang Awareness - R
 Substance Abuse - R
 Other - NR

PERSONS INTERVIEWED

Minors - NI
 Superintendent - I
 Medical/Psych. Staff - I
 School Staff - I
 Supervisor - I
 Supervisor Staff (Counselors) - I
 Food Services Staff - I
 Other – NR

GENERAL INFORMATION

Has the facility exceeded capacity since the last inspection?

No. Total capacity, with all dorms at camp open, is 250 beds. During calendar year 2004, JRF reduced from four (4) to two (2) dorms, each with 53-bed capacity. In December 2004, population increase resulted in opening a third dorm, which made the new capacity 149 beds, the existing capacity. On the date of inspection, the camp population was 119 wards.

Does the facility house minors under Section 601 Welfare & Institutions Code?

No. Juvenile Ranch Facility houses only §602 Welfare & Institutions Code offenders.

SINCE THE LAST INSPECTION INDICATE:

Number of Suicides: 0

Number of Attempted Suicides: 0

Number of Deaths from other causes: 0

Number of Escapes: 0

Number of attempted escapes: 3 wards attempted escape since previous inspection.

Local Inspections: Fire Inspection: December '03 (next inspection scheduled for Aug. '05)
 Health-Environmental: April '05
 Health-Medical/MMH: March '05

Date of Last Fire Drill: May 26, 2005

SAN DIEGO COUNTY JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMISSION
JUVENILE RANCH FACILITY INSPECTION REPORT
2005

STAFFING

Staff to Child Ratio:

Awake hours ratio – 1 Staff representative for every 15 wards.
Sleeping hours ratio -- 1 Staff representative for every 30 wards.

Communication In Language Minor can Understand?

Although all posters and printed material noted was in English, as well as spoken communications, there was no apparent indication of ineffective or inhibited language/communications.

Diversity of Staff:

Diversity of Staff was not specifically addressed during the 2005 site inspection.

Staff/Minor Interactions:

Observed interactions between Staff and wards appeared relaxed and comfortable. Commands and instructions from Staff to wards appeared non-threatening.

Staff Interviews – Comments:

General comments reflected positive atmosphere and concern to provide learning atmosphere within the facility.

CONDITIONS OF GROUNDS

Lawns, Playing fields, Blacktop, Asphalt and Other:

The Juvenile Ranch Facility is located in the East County, which has mountainous topography, and experiences extreme summer and winter temperatures. In general, the facility has natural vegetation and has limited landscaping. During the winter of 2004, the site experienced significant rain. The site reflects increased weed population, and asphalt roads appear to be in deteriorating condition, with some minor erosion adjacent to the paved road surface. Overall, the camp appeared to be free of litter and in average condition. The camp would benefit from some weed control and minimal landscaping efforts.

EXTERIOR OF BUILDINGS

General condition, paint, roof, drains/gutters and etc.:

As noted, the most recent winter included more severe weather than what has been experienced in recent years. Roofs, drains and walkways appeared to be in proper working order. The buildings are old and some have more wear than others. The "Supply & Intake Area," an office trailer, is equipped with wood exterior, which was noted as particularly weathered, with chipped and peeling paint.

SAN DIEGO COUNTY JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMISSION
JUVENILE RANCH FACILITY INSPECTION REPORT
2005

INTERIOR OF BUILDINGS

Walls, paint, floors, drains, plumbing fixtures, air vents, windows, etc.:

Overall, the interior of all buildings reflected the well-worn, long-term use of the facilities. The Rancho del Rayo dorms, which are newer facilities, appeared to be in good overall condition. Graffiti was noted on the windows in the sleeping dorm area, which appears to be correctable by replacing the windows. The older dorms of the Rancho del Campo area were also generally in good condition; however, toilet fixtures in the bathrooms had significant amounts of rust and may require replacement if they are not able to be properly cleaned/refurbished.

Are cleaning fluids and chemicals labeled and safely stored?

Supplies are maintained in a secure building. Wards are not allowed to enter the building without staff supervision.

Weapons Locker Location:

Weapons locker area was not reviewed during 2005 inspection.

Recreation/Sports Equipment:

Recreation and sporting equipment was not specifically reviewed during the 2005 inspection.

Are the hallways clear and doors propped open?

Entrances, hallways, activity rooms and sleeping spaces appeared well maintained and free of obstructions.

Court Holding Area:

Not applicable to Juvenile Ranch Facility.

Sleeping rooms/dormitories:

Dormitories and sleeping rooms appeared to be properly maintained, with climate control and good ventilation.

Beds:

Generally wards are assigned to bunk beds. The bottom bunks are a minimum of 12" above the floor.

Art, books, personal possessions allowed in sleeping rooms?

Wards are allowed to retain a limited amount of personal possessions in the facility, which is generally correspondence and toiletries. The sleeping areas have incentive posters and recreational reading material.

SAN DIEGO COUNTY JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMISSION
JUVENILE RANCH FACILITY INSPECTION REPORT
2005

Graffiti Present?

Graffiti was present in areas where wards have continued access, dormitories, cafeteria, library and recreational areas. The most obvious graffiti was the defaced windows of the Rancho del Rayo dormitory. Staff commented that the terrain of the area provides an ample supply of stones and rocks with sharp edges that are utilized for scratching graffiti on surfaces. Graffiti was generally obliterated by staff.

Ample blankets?

There appeared to be blankets on all beds and staff said additional blankets are made available on request of a ward.

Study Area:

Study areas appeared to be orderly and well lighted. The library facility provided tables and chairs as well as parlor chairs for use by the wards.

Adequate Lighting?

All areas of the camp appeared to have adequate lighting.

Temperature:

The primary facility buildings, including all dormitories, are equipped with central air conditioning and forced air heating.

ORIENTATION OF MINORS

Are minors oriented to rules and procedures?

Upon arrival to the facility, all minors are introduced to the policies, rules and procedures by administrative staff. Further indoctrination takes place during the intake procedure and when wards are assigned to dorms. Many of the policies, rules and goals of the facility are conspicuously posted in dorms and study areas.

Are rules and grievance procedures posted?

Yes, the facility recently adopted a new Grievance Form, which is available in all dorms, in well-marked dispensers. The grievance procedure is included in the indoctrination process.

Are rules and grievance procedures understood by minors?

Yes, Staff states that all wards are well versed in the grievance procedure.

Minors Interviewed – Comments

There were no interviews of minors conducted during the 2005 inspection.

SAN DIEGO COUNTY JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMISSION
JUVENILE RANCH FACILITY INSPECTION REPORT
2005

MEALS/NUTRITION

Kitchen – Clean; are knives and chemicals locked?

The kitchen area appeared clean and properly maintained. Knives and chemicals are secured by staff; wards are not left unsupervised in the kitchen area.

Have the youths working in the kitchen been trained?

All wards working in the kitchen complete a brief sanitation training course; wards are not left unsupervised in the kitchen area.

Are meals served or cafeteria style?

The kitchen layout provides cafeteria-style food dispensing in an area adjacent to the dining room hall. Wards utilize a tray to contain their food, then move into the dining hall where they have assigned table seating. Tables generally seat six wards, three to each side; however, a few tables provide eight seats, four per side. Staff oversee the entire meal period.

Are minors permitted to converse during meals?

There is a quiet time in affect when getting food and entering the dining area. After all are seated, Staff may allow conversation at the table. Communications with wards from other dormitories is prohibited.

Is Staff present and supervising?

Yes, as stated.

Is weekly menu prepared? Is it posted?

Menus are prepared by a Certified Nutritionist who oversees general menus as well as special diets for medical purposes.

Are servings ample, nutritious and appetizing?

The food service appears to be ample and nutritious. As in all institutions, food is a significant factor for all wards; given that there is no individuality of selection and there is little or no "fast food" or "junk food" consumed while in the facility.

Length of time allowed for eating?

Normal mealtime is twenty minutes, which appears to be sufficient time to consume the meals.

PERSONAL APPEARANCE OF MINORS

Appearance?

All wards observed had proper appearance; the clothing appeared clean and free of excessive worn spots, rips, tear and etc. Rules require wards to maintain certain standards, such as no excessive blousing of shirts, pants not too low on the hip, etc.

SAN DIEGO COUNTY JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMISSION
JUVENILE RANCH FACILITY INSPECTION REPORT
2005

Showers – Frequency? Privacy maintained? Supervised by Staff? Any assaults in showers?

Showers are present in the dormitory areas for all wards. Shower facilities are communal, with minimal privacy for the individual. The reduced privacy allows staff adequate monitoring. Staff does not report a significant number of assaults in the shower area.

Condition of clothing – Does clothing fit? Is it appropriate to weather?

As noted previously, on the date of inspection all wards appeared to have clean, well-maintained clothing. On the inspection date, the weather was warm and all wards were dressed appropriately in T-shirts and trousers.

PROGRAMS

Recreation/Exercise – types and amount each day.

Every ward is provided a minimum of two hours of recreation per day. Wards receive one hour during school hours and a second hour during the afternoon period. There is generally more recreational time spent on weekends.

Access to Religious Services?

All wards are entitled to attend religious services, when they are conducted. Religious services are scheduled on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of every month and on Saturdays. Presently there are no Roman Catholic services available; Protestant services are available.

Medical/Mental Health Services

Medical and Mental Health services are provided by California Forensic Medial Group (CFMG).

Volunteer Program:

There is no volunteer program currently utilized at Juvenile Ranch Facility.

Counseling and Casework:

Currently there are 4-5 Dorm Staff at JRF; 1 Psychologist; 2 Phoenix House Counselors and 1 Mite Counselor.

Rancho del Rayo Programming:

Rancho del Rayo programs include community programming provided by Phoenix House Staff, a non-profit drug treatment organization operating "Therapeutic Communities" in New England, Florida, Texas and California. Therapeutic Community (TC) is defined as a community whose structure, daily activities, and interaction of its members are designed to promote personal change in its participants. The TC is geared to help embers develop the skills needed for recovery, generally through organized seminars, group meetings and observed individual participation. In addition to the Phoenix House programming, Rancho del Rayo provides AA/NA meetings, the McAlister Institute for Treatment and Education, Aggression Replacement Therapy and a 12-week Drug Counseling program. Wards assigned to Rancho del Rayo also participate in

SAN DIEGO COUNTY JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMISSION
JUVENILE RANCH FACILITY INSPECTION REPORT
2005

programs designed to encourage wards train and motivate by example, such as the White Hat program, the highest level of recognition a ward can attain.

Rancho del Campo Programming:

Rancho del Campo programs, Breaking Cycles, and a STOP (Short-Term Offender Program) redirecting delinquent behavior focus. Specific programs include the Pillars of Character/Aggression Replacement Therapy; Anger Management; Drug/Alcohol Counseling; Thinking for a Change; Literacy Program; Criminal Conduct and Substance Abuse Treatment. All programs include full attendance at Rancho del Campo High School, Psychological Counseling, Modified Attitude Adjustment Program, Character Counts, Church Services, and Random Drug testing.

DISCIPLINE OF MINORS

Frequency and type:

Three (3) levels of discipline are employed at the Juvenile Ranch Facility. Lowest Level: Verbal – not documented; Mid Level: Mark Down – recorded and may result in loss of points/privileges; Highest Level – Termination from facility. At all levels of discipline, the Staff is oriented to try to resolve the issue if possible. Escalating the discipline to higher levels is considered a final option.

Number and Type:

Staff reports a perceived increase in Level One – Verbal discipline, attributed to the fluxuating staff levels. Grievances are reviewed/resolved in a 5-Step procedure: First: CDPO Line Staff attempts to resolve; Second: Shift leader attempts to resolve; Third: Hearing Officer attempts to resolve; Fourth: Supervisor of Dorm attempts to resolve; Fifth and final: Director of Facility review.

TELEPHONE

Access:

Telephones are located in the dormitories and wards are encouraged to make a minimum of a weekly call to home. Use of the telephone is used as a reward for good behavior and wards are frequently allowed brief, 5-minute phone calls during evening hours.

CORRESPONDENCE

Is Postage Free? Is incoming and/or outgoing mail read? Is there confidential correspondence?

Incoming mail is scanned for contraband. Envelopes are removed from the letters. Staff allows as much confidentiality as possible to correspondence by the wards.

SAN DIEGO COUNTY JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMISSION
JUVENILE RANCH FACILITY INSPECTION REPORT
2005

VISITING

Is there adequate space, convenient times or accommodations to parent work schedule, etc. special visits? Does staff supervise visits? Is there adequate privacy?

Visitation is normally held in an outdoor picnic area. Staff oversees the visiting. Visitors are not permitted to give presents or any material to wards. The visiting hours are normally on Sunday afternoons, between noon and 3 p.m.

Have all minors had visits?

Staff reports that not all minors have received visits. The remote location of the facility and lack of viable transportation is frequently given as the reason for lack of visitation by family members.

SCHOOL

Teachers – Number of full-time; frequency of substitutions.

School staff is as follows: Principal (1); Secretaries (2); Registrars (2); Teachers (13); Teachers Aides (9); Instructional Aides (3).

Number of minors in school/per classroom.

All minors at JRF attend school. The only acceptable reason for missing class would be medical issues, court-related appearance and, on infrequent occasions, wards assigned to special duties (kitchen, etc) may miss some classroom time. Classroom size varies based on population; the typical classroom size is 10-15 students.

Number of Minors on independent study:

On the date of inspection there were no wards assigned to independent study.

Atmosphere of classroom:

On the date of inspection, students in classrooms were not observed. Class instructional periods average 50 minutes and classes are conducted five days a week between 8:00 a.m. and 2:35 p.m.

Adequate Supplies? Books, paper, computers, etc.

School supplies appeared to be adequate.

Activities and coursework:

Class curriculum covers Language Arts, Reading, Mathematics, Science (Physical and Life), Social Science (History, Economics, and Civics), Physical Education, GED Preparation, and Computer applications.

SAN DIEGO COUNTY JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMISSION
JUVENILE RANCH FACILITY INSPECTION REPORT
2005

Are minors required to do homework?

Minors are not generally given work to conduct in the dormitories.

Relationship between school and juvenile hall staff.

On the date of inspection, there was an obvious atmosphere of shared respect and common goal to benefit the wards between all staff on site.

/end